

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 10699 130851Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 OES-09 NRC-05 DOE-15 SOE-02
CEQ-01 IO-13 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 /117 W
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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2744
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 10699

KABUL FOR UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGSC MNUC TECT IN
SUBJECT: INDIA AND THE CTB

REF: STATE 174235

1. THE FACT THAT NEITHER THE FONSEC NOR THE FONMIN ACCOMPANIED THE PM ON HIS RETURN APPARENTLY ACCOUNTS FOR THE PM NOT HAVING BEEN REMINDED TO ANNOUNCE INDIA'S READINESS TO SIGN A GENUINE, FIVE-YEAR CTB (ONE SUCH AS WAS DESCRIBED TO HIM BY THE PRESIDENT) IN THE PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING HIS LANDING IN DELHI.

2. NOW, HOWEVER, FONSEC MEHTA SAYS A PROBLEM HAS ARISEN. THE GOI IS TROUBLED BY THE JULY 1 NEW YORK TIMES STORY OVER THE BY-LINE OF RICHARD BURT WHICH SAYS THAT U.S. MILITARY AND NUCLEAR EXPERTS HAVE FORCED A CHANGE IN OUR POSITION SO THAT CERTAIN KINDS OF TESTING WILL BE PERMITTED AND THE DURATION OF THE CTB WILL BE REDUCED TO 3 YEARS. MEHTA INDICATED THAT THESE REPORTED CHANGES IN THE PROSPECTIVE CTB ARE VERY DISTURBING TO THE GOI, AND HE SEEMED CONFIDENTIAL

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TO BE SAYING THAT INDIA WOULD NOT BECOME A PARTY TO SO LIMITED A CTB. SINCE WE HAD NOT SEEN THE NEW YORK TIMES STORY OR BEEN ALERTED TO THESE POSSIBLE CHANGES IN THE U.S. POSITION, I WAS CAUGHT AT A LOSS AND COULD ONLY OFFER TO SEEK CLARIFICATION. PLEASE PROVIDE GUIDANCE ASAP.

3. LET ME ADD THAT I FELT IT EMBARRASSING TO BOTH UNDER

SECRETARY NEWSOM AND MYSELF TO HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO RAISE
WITH THE GOI THE MATTER OF INDIA'S COMMITMENT TO SIGN A
CTB, AS WE DID YESTERDAY WITH V. SHANKAR AND JAGAT MEHTA,
WITHOUT HAVING BEEN GIVEN ANY WARNING OF THIS ALLEGED
CHANGE IN WAHT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT. EVEN IF BURT'S STORY
DOES NOT CORRECTLY PORTRAY THE CURRENT U.S. POSITION, THE
DEPARTMENT SHOULD KNOW THAT A STROY LIKE THIS, ON A TOPIC
OF SO MUCH INTEREST TO THE GOI, IN AN "AUTHORITIATIVE" NEWS-
PAPER LIKE THE TIMES, IS BOUND TO BE FLASHED TO THE GOI
AND DRAW ITS ATTENTION. IN SUCH SITUATIONS THE EMBASSY
NEEDS A COMPARABLE ALERT, TOGETHER WITH GUIDANCE.
GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

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